

Jean Harris Collapses; Jury Begins Deliberations

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WHITE PLAINS, N.Y. (UPI)—Jean Harris, the woman accused of murdering Scarsdale Diet author Dr. Herman Tarnower, collapsed weeping inside the courthouse Tuesday where a jury of eight women and four men began deliberating her fate.

"She seemed more emotionally distraught than physically disabled," said a witness who saw the

incident in a private corridor on the 10th floor of the Westchester County Courthouse.

A deputy sheriff, who is also a paramedic, went to her aid, as did her lawyer, Joel Aurnou.

"I don't need help. I don't want any help," the weeping Harris reportedly told Aurnou. The deputy sheriff helped her up, and she was taken to a side room.

The jury began deliberations at about 5:20 p.m. after receiving five hours of instructions from Judge Russell Leggett. Jurors deliberated 3 hours and 26 minutes, then recessed for the night.

Harris, 57, the former headmistress of the Madeira School for girls in McLean, Va., is accused of second-degree murder for allegedly shooting the 69-year-old cardiolo-

gist to death in the bedroom of his Purchase, N.Y., mansion last March 10.

The prosecution contended she was enraged because Tarnower, her lover of 14 years, had turned to a younger woman. The defense said the doctor was shot in a struggle for the gun as he attempted to thwart Harris' suicide.

In his charge to the jury, Leggett defined second-degree murder as the "intentional" killing of an individual. He said the panel could convict Harris of the charge even if it

believed she decided to kill Tarnower the moment she pulled the trigger.

Leggett said if the panel decided intent was not involved, it could convict Harris of manslaughter in the second degree or criminally negligent homicide.

If convicted of second-degree murder, Harris faces a maximum penalty of 15 years to life. Second-degree manslaughter has a maximum penalty of zero to 15 years and criminally negligent homicide, zero to four.

To many, it appeared that Harris was the best witness for the prosecution because she underscored its portrayal of her as a woman enraged when Tarnower turned his affections to Lynne Tryforos, 37, his medical assistant.

In his summation, prosecutor George Bolen accused Harris of murdering Tarnower because she could not accept the "ultimate humiliation" of losing him to Tryforos.

Aurnou, in his summation, said Harris adored the doctor but was a "sick, suicidal" woman.

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